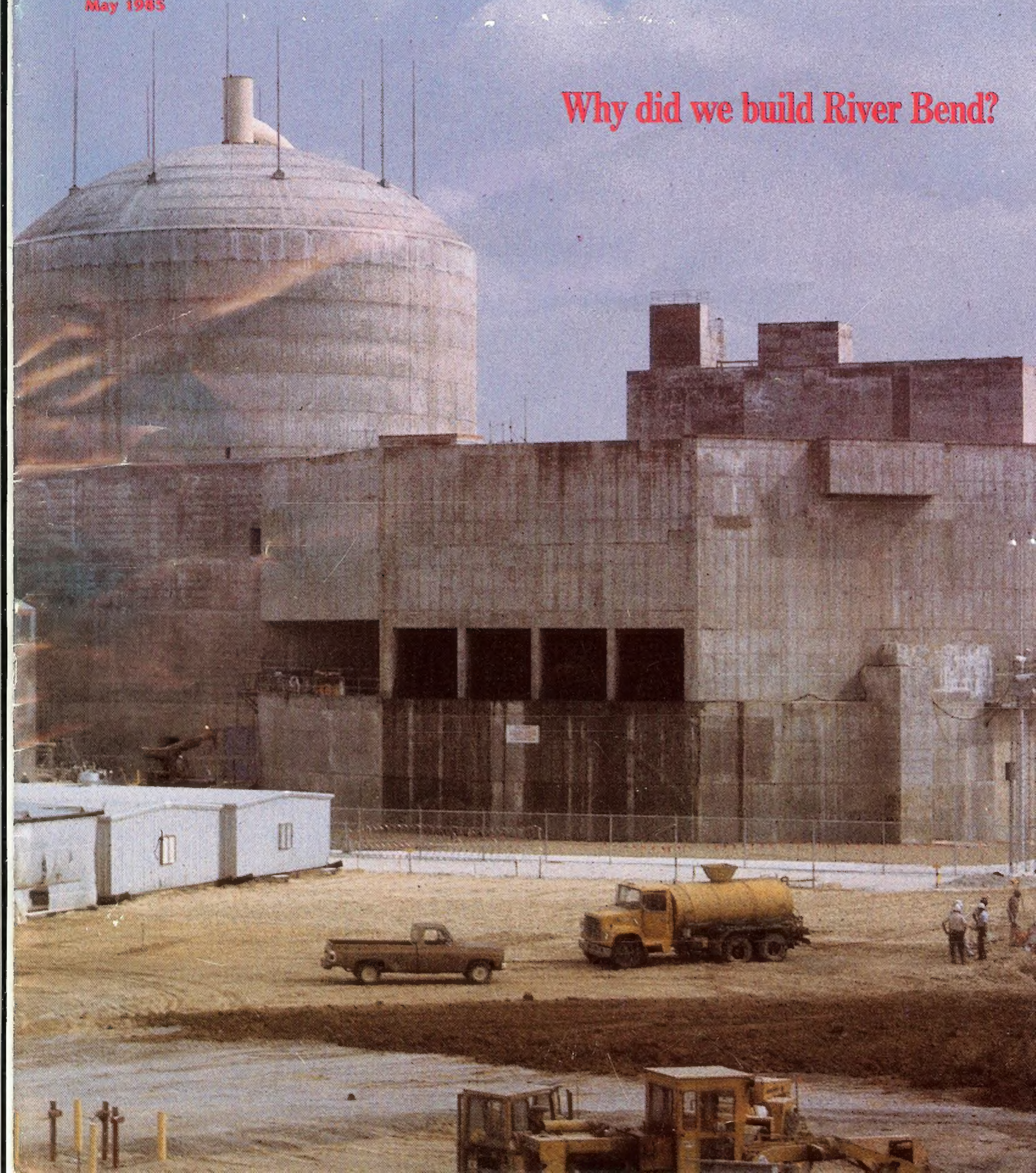


# PLAIN TALKS

May 1985

Why did we build River Bend?





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Volume 64

Number 4

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## PLAIN TALKS

May 1985

Published for employees and retirees of Gulf States Utilities Company. Address all communications to PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (409) 838-6631.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



## Williams says thanks

Employees of GSU:

Words alone cannot express my sincere appreciation for the generosity shown to me and my wife, Karen, during my recent accident and hospitalization. Your kind expressions of support by means of cards, letters, visits, contributions, flowers and the purchase of the jambalaya dinner tickets meant so much to us.

Although I have been a Gulf States employee for a relatively short time (since October of 1983), I am the son of a 30 year Gulf States employee. I have always heard that Gulf States takes care of its employees and I am living proof that this is true. Many of you I know personally and many I have never met.

Again, Karen and I say a great big THANK YOU to each and every one of you.

Sincerely,  
Timothy R. Williams  
Baker, La.

**Editor's Note:** Williams suffered a collapsed lung, severed spine and other injuries in a fall from a tree stand while hunting deer. He is the son of Ben Williams, a shift supervisor at Louisiana Station.

## Swift service

Ernest Singletary  
Madisonville, Texas

Every day during the cold weather I thanked my lucky stars for you and your crews in Madisonville and Huntsville. They repaired my underground service at a time when the weather turned bitterly cold. I have thought many times about what could have happened had your employees not responded so quickly. My grateful thanks again to you and your crews.

Sincerely,  
Kaye Brookover  
Madisonville, Texas

## Brochure applauded

Mr. J.B. Bishop Jr.  
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Bishop:

I want to congratulate you and your company on your brochure "The Energy Efficient Manufactured Home." As a retailer in the manufactured housing industry, we appreciate your support of the progress our industry is making in providing affordable housing.

Our dealership has eight sales locations in central Louisiana and I would like each of our sales people to have a copy of your brochure. So if it is possible, please send me 30 copies of "The Energy Efficient Manufactured Home."

Again, congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,  
James A. O'Neill  
Ed's Mobile Homes  
Alexandria, Louisiana

## Resource book hailed

Mr. Jim Davidson  
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I would like to thank you and your company for the fine resource book, *Help Available*, that is in its 2nd or 3rd printing. It has become a very valuable tool for the Texas Department of Human Resources' staff in the Golden Triangle.

While I am acknowledging the value of your resource book, I also want to commend one of your staff, Ms. Sue Kendall. She has been so resourceful and helpful to people in need, and I often hear my staff express words of appreciation for Ms. Kendall and her willingness to help the less fortunate of our community.

We in TDHR Region 10 enjoy our working relationship with Gulf States and look forward to a

long and lasting relationship in caring with you.

Sincerely,  
June Klein  
Regional Administrator  
Texas Dept. of Human Resources

## Courtesy appreciated

Charles Enloe  
Conroe, Texas

Dear Mr. Enloe:

Not often enough in our daily lives do we stop to acknowledge those people who take the time to do more than their share while performing their jobs.

I would like to express my appreciation to one of your employees, Candy Lutz, for the professional, courteous and warm manner in which she has greeted me and handled many customer service questions. This prompted me to let you know of the many times I have dealt with various personnel from GSU. Ms. Lutz has been most impressive with her positive attitude and friendly, patient ways. Candy is an asset to your organization.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Castleberry  
Conroe, Texas

**Editor's Note:** Candy Lutz is a clerk in Conroe.

## THE COVER

The containment dome of the River Bend Nuclear Station stands out against the afternoon sky.

Construction of the plant is nearing completion, with startup and testing procedures continuing at a steady pace. Finishing the River Bend project on time and on schedule is one of Gulf States' major goals for 1985.

The cover photograph was taken by Mike Rodgers.



# Five employees ear

by Mike Rodgers

The dictionary describes a hero as someone who does something that takes courage. While the five Gulf States employees who received President's Lifesaving Awards for 1984 will probably deny being heroes, few can deny that their quick-thinking and resourcefulness at a critical moment made a difference between life and death. The award is presented to an employee who performs a life-saving act on another. For 1984, five GSU employees received the award and appreciation from President Norman Lee.

Cynthia Burch, meter reader in Dayton, was working her route when a frantic homeowner shouted

that a 5-year-old neighbor boy playing on a trampoline was choking. The youth had turned blue and was not breathing. Burch performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging a piece of hard candy from his throat.

Mike Magee of Beaumont, a relayman-1st class, was in his backyard when his wife called for help. Magee found a neighbor woman bent over in his driveway, choking. Using the Heimlich maneuver, a piece of biscuit and a chicken bone popped out. The woman said she swallowed the biscuit in an attempt to jar the bone loose. Hospital x-rays revealed that her throat passage was subsequently clear.

Photo by Les Jones



*Cynthia Burch, meter reader in Dayton, accepts her award from GSU President Norman Lee*



Photo by Les Jones

*Lee presents award to James Morgan, serviceman-1st class in Anahuac.*



Photo by Ken McCullough

*Richard Nesom (left), equipment operator, was part of a lifesaving duo at Willow Glen Station.*



# President's Lifesaving Awards

Three children in Anahuac are probably too young to appreciate all the fuss when they were saved from drowning in a swimming pool last September, but James Morgan remembers it well. Morgan, a serviceman-1st class, is a member of the volunteer Anahuac Emergency Corps which was called in to save the children, all of whom were found lying on the bottom of the pool. The children, two 2-year-olds and a 3-year-old, were close to death and had stopped breathing when Morgan and the others began working to revive them. When the rescue team finished, the youngsters were breathing with great difficulty

and were transported to a hospital. All three recovered.

Thanks to the quick action of two of his co-workers, Richard Goudeau, equipment operator at Willow Glen, is still alive. Goudeau was working in the control room when he suddenly sucked in a cough drop which became stuck in his throat. Bill Fontenot, control operation foreman, and Richard Nesom, equipment operator, noticed that Goudeau was gasping for breath and ran to help. The two took turns applying back blows and stomach thrusts. After several minutes of this effort, Goudeau was able to breathe again. Nesom and Fontenot credited a

CPR class they attended the week before. In that class, they learned the method they used to jar the cough drop loose from Goudeau's throat.

---

**"By the grace of God, James W. Fontenot saved a life on Nov. 8, 1984."**

---



Photo by Les Jones

*Mike Magee, relayman-1st class in Beaumont, accepts his award from Lee.*



Photo by Susan Gilley

*Bill Fontenot, equipment operator, said he and Richard Nesom had just taken a GSU-sponsored CPR class the week before the two men saved the life of a 3rd co-worker by using the Heimlich maneuver.*



# Make a wish



*From left: Betty Haley, Sarah's mother; Woody Woodpecker; Sarah Haley; Ruth Hebert, Sarah's grandmother; Andy Panda.*

by Mike Rodgers

**J**im Walker knows a great deal about children. Not only does the Conroe storekeeper have four of his own, but also he is a member of a national volunteer organization whose sole purpose is to make youngsters happy. A Child's Wish Come True, Inc., devotes its time and energy to doing something special for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. "We ask them to wish for something," says Walker, "and then use all of our resources to make it a reality."

Often the wish is for a bicycle or go-cart, but sometimes the group gets requests for vacation trips or meetings with celebrities. Says Walker, "Dolly Parton has been very gracious about making time to visit youngsters who ask to see her."

Recently he escorted 3-year-old Sarah Ruth Haley, granddaughter of GSU retiree Sonny

Hebert of Bridge City, and Sarah's mother and grandmother on a one-week trip to Disneyland. Sarah is undergoing treatment for a disease which doctors are unable to identify. Walker used his own vacation time to make the trip and arranged for airline tickets, transportation and other needs so the family had no worries.

Walker traces his involvement with the group to one source, his love of children. "It's a great thrill to light up a child's face with something you can do for them," he says enthusiastically. Some people believe that helping a terminally ill child must be a depressing experience for everyone involved, but Walker denies that. "The children are completely thrilled," notes the storekeeper enthusiastically. "The family may be hurting, but the child is emotionally the strongest one of all."



*Sarah with Jim Walker*



*Stunt doubles from the NBC-TV series "The A-Team" make friends with Sarah at Universal Studios.*



# Blood: the gift of life

by Mike Rodgers

"Gulf States has a proud history of supporting the Blood Center of Southeast Texas," says Carol Weatherall, director of donor recruiting in Beaumont. Last year, and again in 1985, GSU employees are turning out in high numbers to boost the donor program.

Texas employee participation dates from 1957, when the first blood club was organized. In those early years, all blood was given at the center itself, since there were no drives set up on company property. Each club received one credit for each pint donated. In the event a club member needed blood, there were credits on hand from which to draw.

In 1967, the first blood drive was held and, in the intervening years, GSU employees have contributed nearly 5,000 pints to the Blood Center of Southeast Texas, which is responsible for recruiting in a 6½-county area. The donation system in effect now is called Blood Plan 40. If the equivalent of 40 percent of employees donate each year, 100 percent of employees and their tax dependents are covered for their blood needs at any hospital served by the Blood Center.

Sabine Station's blood drives in 1984 were so successful that plant personnel were awarded two honors. The Blood Center of Southeast Texas recognized Sabine employees for "outstanding achievement and generosity" for having the highest percentage of donations, 101 percent, for that year. The South Central Association of Blood Banks, representing eight states from Arizona to Mississippi, also presented its President's Award to Sabine for having the highest percentage of donors in the region.



*From left: Page Sanchez, executive board president-South Central Association of Blood Banks; Marlan Verdine and Robert Breaux, blood drive co-chairmen, Sabine Station; Charles Wilcox, awards chairman. The awards were presented in Biloxi, Miss.*





From left: Lester Gauthier, Ted Meinscher, Robert Domingue.

## Two retirees honored in Lafayette

Friends and co-workers of Lester Gauthier and Robert Domingue feasted on chicken and sausage jambalaya, salad and bread at their double retirement party Feb. 15 in Lafayette.

Gauthier, a right-of-way representative, was presented a clock as a gag gift, as well as luggage and a wheel barrow. Mrs. Gauthier received a corsage and a jewelry box.

Domingue was presented a framed picture of the retirement party and a homemade deer stand. Mrs. Domingue received a corsage and a jewelry box.

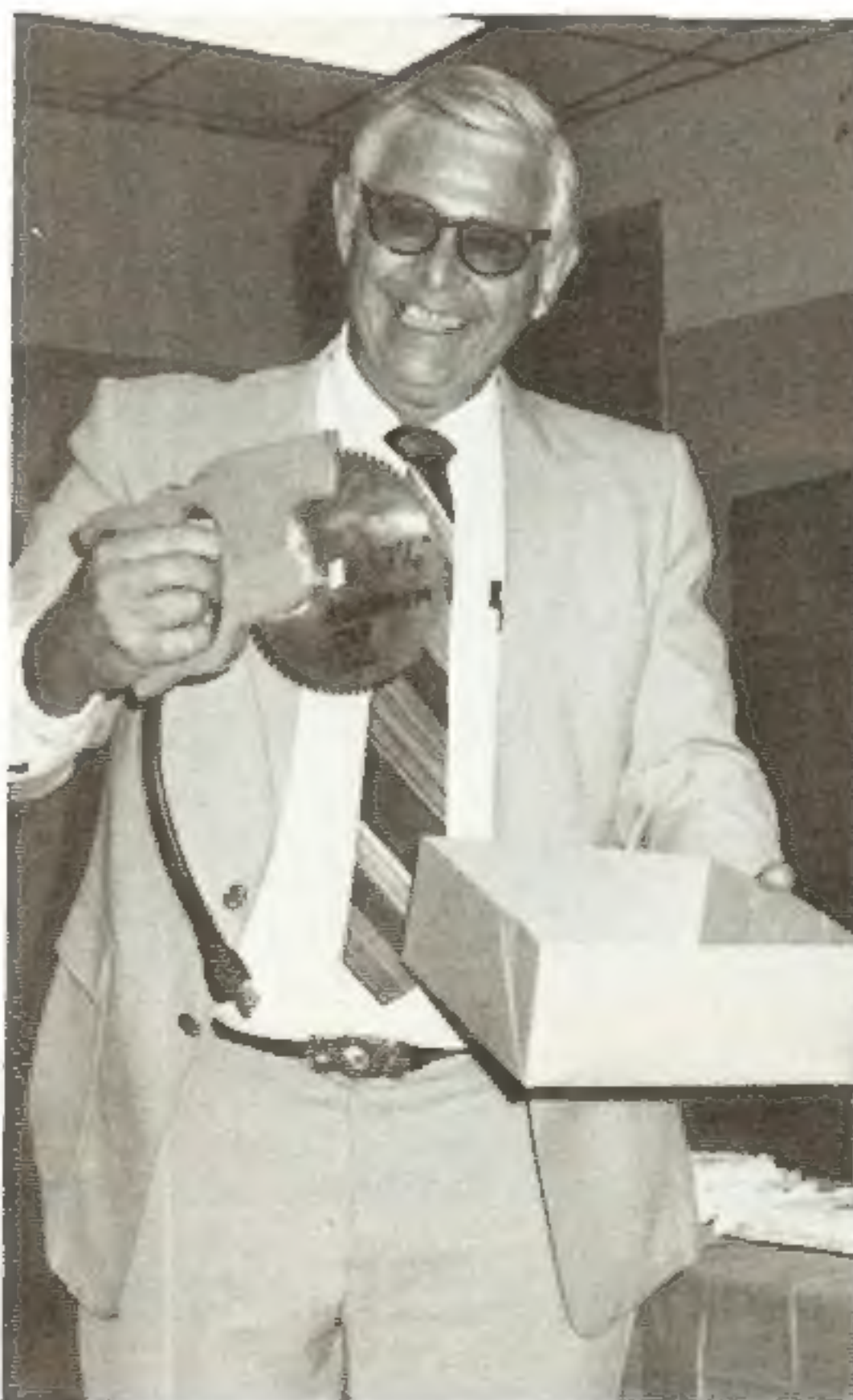
Ted Meinscher, Lake Charles Division vice president, gave each man a plaque for years of service without a lost-time accident. Gauthier worked 39 years without a lost-time accident, while Domingue worked 35 years without one.

## Peckham retires after 35 years

"It's just what I need to complete my workshop," said J.R. Peckham, speaking of the band

saw presented to him at his retirement party Jan. 31 at the Beaumont Service Center. Peckham was a section head in the right-of-way department.

Co-workers also gave him a plaque shaped like the state of Texas which everyone had signed. Wayne Sullins, Beaumont Division operating superintendent, recognized Peckham for working 35 years without a lost-time accident.



Robert Peckham with his band saw.



Viola and Edd Mitchell.

## Mitchell named outstanding citizen

Edd Mitchell, senior district service representative in Cleveland, retired Feb. 1 after 36 years with Gulf States.

His retirement did not go unnoticed by his friends and neighbors. Cleveland Mayor Ronnie McWaters issued a proclamation naming Mitchell an outstanding citizen of the community and designating Jan. 31 as Edd Mitchell Day in the city for his many years of civic involvement.

Taking part in community activities is nothing new for Mitchell. The Cleveland Kiwanis Club selected him as its "Man of the Year" in 1976 for 21 years of perfect attendance. He was fire chief of Cleveland for 6 years, and was named "Fireman of the Year" in 1977.

Mitchell received a plaque from Gulf States for 36 years without a lost-time accident.



# Why are we building it?

by Kim McMurray

**G**ulf States is emphasizing the importance of bringing the River Bend Nuclear Station on line and putting it into the rate base. At the same time, many employees are asking why the decision was made to build the plant. GSU President Norman Lee was involved with the planning which led to that decision and talked to Kim McMurray about it for this *Plain Talks* article.

**PLAIN TALKS:** GSU first announced plans to build two River Bend units in 1971. What prompted that decision?

**LEE:** To answer that, you first need to go back to the mid-1960s when we signed long-term natural gas supply contracts with Exxon and United Gas. Natural gas was cheap and plentiful and our generating plans called for all future units to be gas-fired.

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**“It was becoming clear, however, that we needed more than just oil and gas in our fuel mix.”**

---

We sailed along without a care until 1970, when the winds were knocked out of our sails. United curtailed our gas supply in Louisiana and we scrambled to find fuel. All electric utilities in this part of the country were in a bind because they were almost totally dependent on natural gas and there wasn't enough to go around. We looked at converting all of our generating units so they could burn both oil and gas and finally did convert two major units. It was becoming clear, however, that we needed more than just oil and gas in our fuel mix. In 1971, plans were announced for two nuclear units at River Bend.

**PLAIN TALKS:** Was it unusual for an electric utility to be planning or building a nuclear unit at that time?

**LEE:** Not at all. Gulf States

had lots of company. By the end of 1971, there were 25 nuclear power plants operating in the U.S., 52 under construction and about 50 more in the planning



*Norman R. Lee*





*Joe Ison, repairman-1st class-nuclear, removes bolts from a box of fuel bundles.*

stages. The nuclear industry was booming because the units were going on line at a reasonable cost and there was responsible regulation. No one knew what was going to happen to interest rates, inflation and regulation and what impact they would play on nuclear plant costs.

**PLAIN TALKS:** What role did load growth play in the River Bend decision?

**LEE:** Our load had grown between 10 and 12 percent every year from 1933 until 1967. Between 1967 and 1970, the company experienced a 150 percent growth rate and forecasts in 1969 anticipated a 67 percent load growth by 1974. Even with the OPEC oil embargo and higher inflation, our load grew 37 percent over that period. A 1973 study by the Gulf South Research Institute projected that demand would increase an average of more than 9 percent per year throughout the 1970s and 6 percent a year during the first half of the 1980s. With projections like that, we certainly considered River Bend an important addition to our generating capacity.

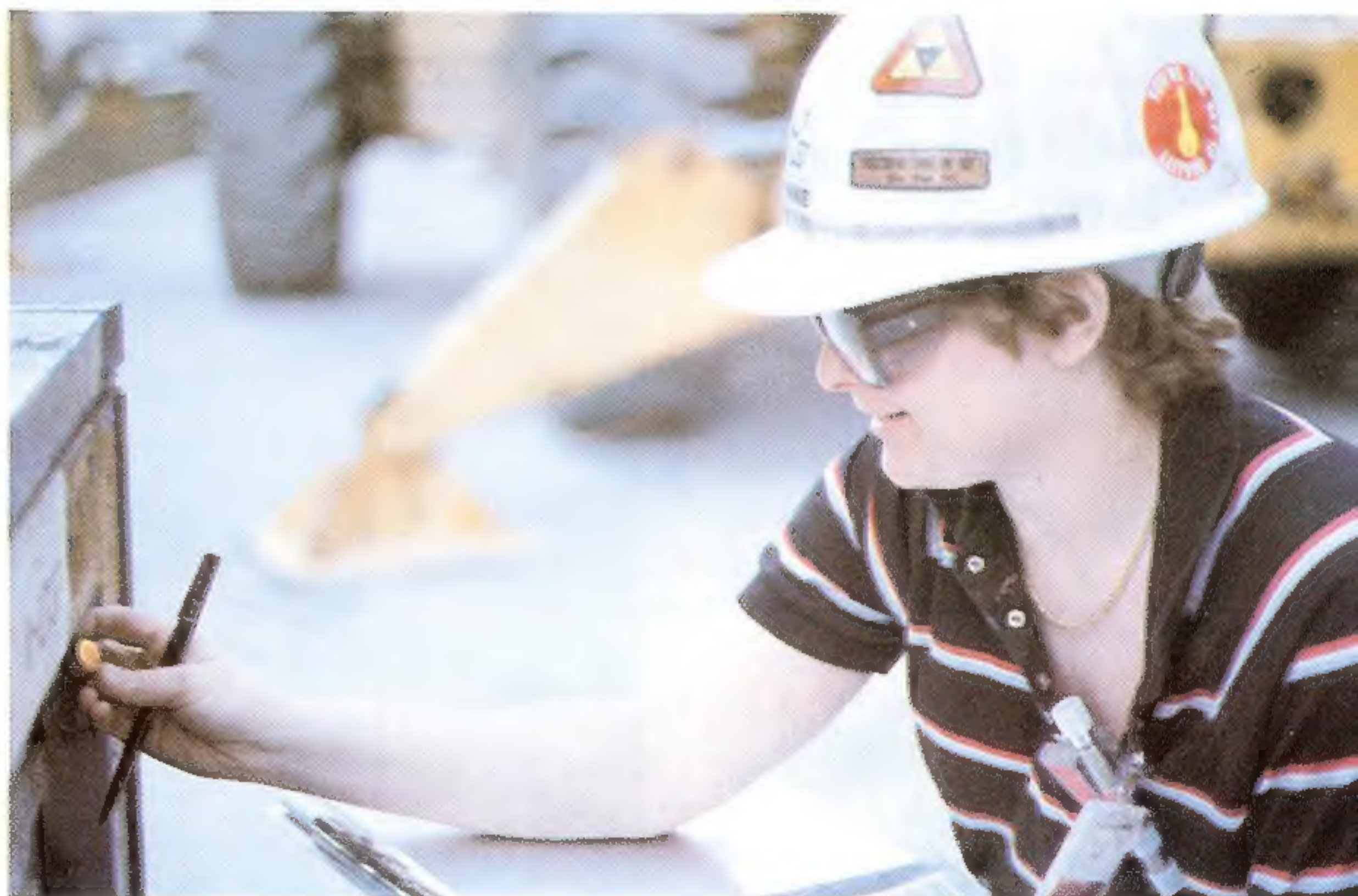
**PLAIN TALKS:** In September of 1973, the company applied to

the Atomic Energy Commission for the River Bend construction permit. What was happening in the "outside world" at the time?

**LEE:** The River Bend decision was looking better all the time. In 1972, the nation was no longer producing enough crude oil to meet its own needs and was growing dependent on oil imports. A month after the River Bend permit application was

filed, the bottom dropped out when the OPEC oil embargo began and oil prices started soaring. In January of 1974, Gulf States came within one day of not having enough oil to keep our generating units running. It was a rough time that I'll never forget — a time that showed us the importance of having several fuels for generating electricity.

**PLAIN TALKS:** During the



*Kahne Bankston, quality control inspector, checks the seal on a box of fuel bundles.*



several years of planning and engineering before construction actually started, did the company review River Bend from time to time to determine if it were still needed?

**LEE:** All of our generation plans were reviewed and refined on an annual basis. In 1975, for example, the generation plans were revised to put the Nelson 6 coal unit ahead of River Bend. Another review in 1977 showed us that, because of financial constraints, we couldn't proceed with River Bend at that time. We started looking for one or more partners to share the cost. It was decided that the first concrete would not be poured until the company's financial picture improved.

**PLAIN TALKS:** What happened between 1977 and 1979, when construction actually began?

**LEE:** For one thing, more restrictions were placed on the use of natural gas. Congress passed the Fuel Use Act of 1978 that said all electric utilities had to be **totally off** natural gas by 1990. We knew that meant a lot of generating capacity would have to be added and that it all had to be coal or nuclear. We also knew the company could only build one coal plant and one nuclear plant at the same time.

**"In January of 1974, Gulf States came within one day of not having enough oil to keep our generating units running."**

Partners were found for both plants and construction started. The decision to begin building River Bend was made easier in early 1979 when the Louisiana Public Service Commission gave us a \$22.9 million rate increase.

**PLAIN TALKS:** Looking back at your long involvement with River Bend, do you think the company made any mistakes along the way?

**LEE:** It's easy for some people to look back and say that certain decisions were wrong. I think the

## Why did GSU decide to build River Bend?

- Natural gas and oil shortages loomed
- Healthy load growth was anticipated
- Nuclear plant construction costs were reasonable
- The nuclear industry was booming
- Inflation, interest rates, regulation weren't problems

main question is whether various decisions were supported by the facts and data that were available at the time. If the answer is yes, the decision was prudent. I've just finished reviewing all that took place as River Bend progressed and I am firmly convinced that each decision was

prudent and sound. Certainly, the plant is going to be more expensive in the beginning because of the high capital costs. But in the long run, River Bend will help stabilize customers' bills and protect us from oil embargoes and gas shortages that are bound to happen in the future.



*Joe Jones and Joe Martin, repairmen-1st class-nuclear, attach a hook to a box of fuel bundles prior to unloading.*





*Archie McClure (far right) observes Earl Landry of Neches Station (far left) and David Martinez of Willow Glen.*



*Mike Gross of Neches Station (left) and Chuck Schaffield of Willow Glen work on a repair shop project.*

### Success story:

## Willow Glen operates valve repair shop

by Susan Gilley

The valve repair shop at Willow Glen Station is more than just a good idea that has saved the company money and brought about more dependable repair service.

"We're helping to hold down my electric bill and your electric bill. I really believe that," insists Archie McClure, the mechanical maintenance foreman who supervises the operation.

The shop's success story began in the early 1980s when the plant's mechanical maintenance group's management team decided that the plant should become self-sufficient in the area of valve repairs.

In the years just before that decision, explains Joe Zammit, Willow Glen superintendent, outside contractors seemed to be doing sloppy repair work at exorbitant prices.

So, with an investment of about \$300,000 and extensive training of several employees, that plant set up shop. In the approximately three years since it has existed, the shop has recovered that investment many times over. Now, the nine mechanics who work for McClure manufacture parts, perform in-line repairs and repair valves on routine maintenance. Further, McClure is certified by the state of Louisiana to perform inspections of safety valves.

McClure says he is convinced that the plant is kept safer because the men have a vested interest in Willow Glen. "You just don't find that level of safety-mindedness when repairs are handled by outside contractors," he points out.

More recently, his group has been training two Neches Station

employees so that they can set up a similar shop for the Texas power plants.

McClure says a team of "self-motivated people" has been the key to the valve shop's success. All nine men working for him fit that description, he insists. They are Jim Goodwin, master repairman; David Martinez, repairman-1st class; Randy Carr, repairman-1st class; Chuck Schaffield, repairman-1st class; Ken Smith, repairman-2nd class; Jerry Rhodus, repairman-2nd class; Wayne Rogers, repairman-2nd class; Ronnie Bovard, repairman-2nd class; and Woody Landry, mechanic's helper.

"We take a lot of pride in what we do. We're proud to say we work in the valve shop," says McClure.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## 40 years



**Ernest C. Kelly**  
Electric T&D  
Denham Springs



**Steve C. Oliphant**  
Plant Production  
Louisiana Station

## 30 years



**Joseph L. Faulk**  
Electric T&D  
Jennings



**Lemuel A. Gravelle**  
Electric T&D  
Jennings



**Jack I. Martin**  
Div. Accounting  
Beaumont



**Berton Young**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles

## 20 years



**James E. Bryant**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Thomas R. Coggins**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Everett B. Davis Jr.**  
Engineering Svcs.  
Beaumont



**Robert D. Phelps**  
Computer  
Applications  
Beaumont

## 10 years



**William L. Benedetto**  
Public Affairs  
Baton Rouge



**Maureen F. Cummings**  
Accounting Services  
Beaumont



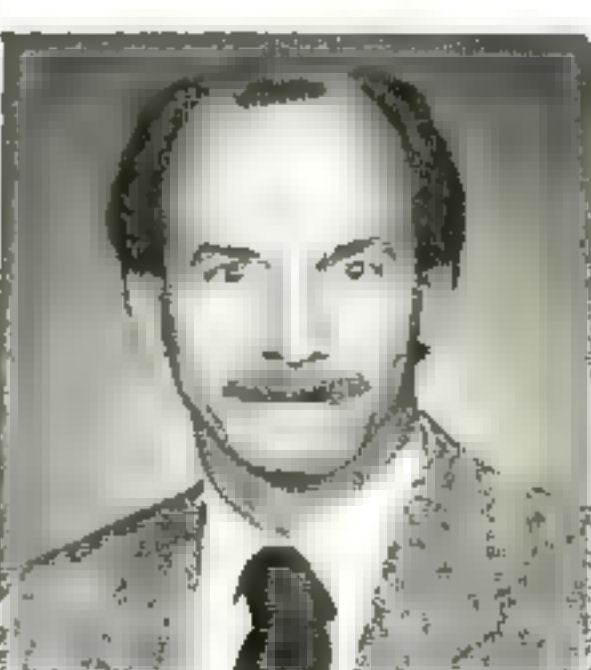
**Michael D. Fountain**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



**Daniel R. Mitchell**  
Electric T&D  
Woodville



**Jacob Provost Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Orange



**Ira C. Walker**  
Div. Accounting  
New Caney



# Taming the wolf

by Mike Rodgers



“The wolf came through the door Jan. 1, and to everyone’s relief he was pretty well tamed by the time he got here,” says Joe Bondurant, executive vice president-administrative and technical services. The wolf in this instance was the expiration of the Exxon natural gas contract and what it would do to customer’s electric bills.

For 21 years, Exxon supplied about one-half of GSU’s energy needs at 23 cents per thousand cubic feet. “At the beginning of this decade when we started looking for replacement gas, the wolf looked huge and menacing,”

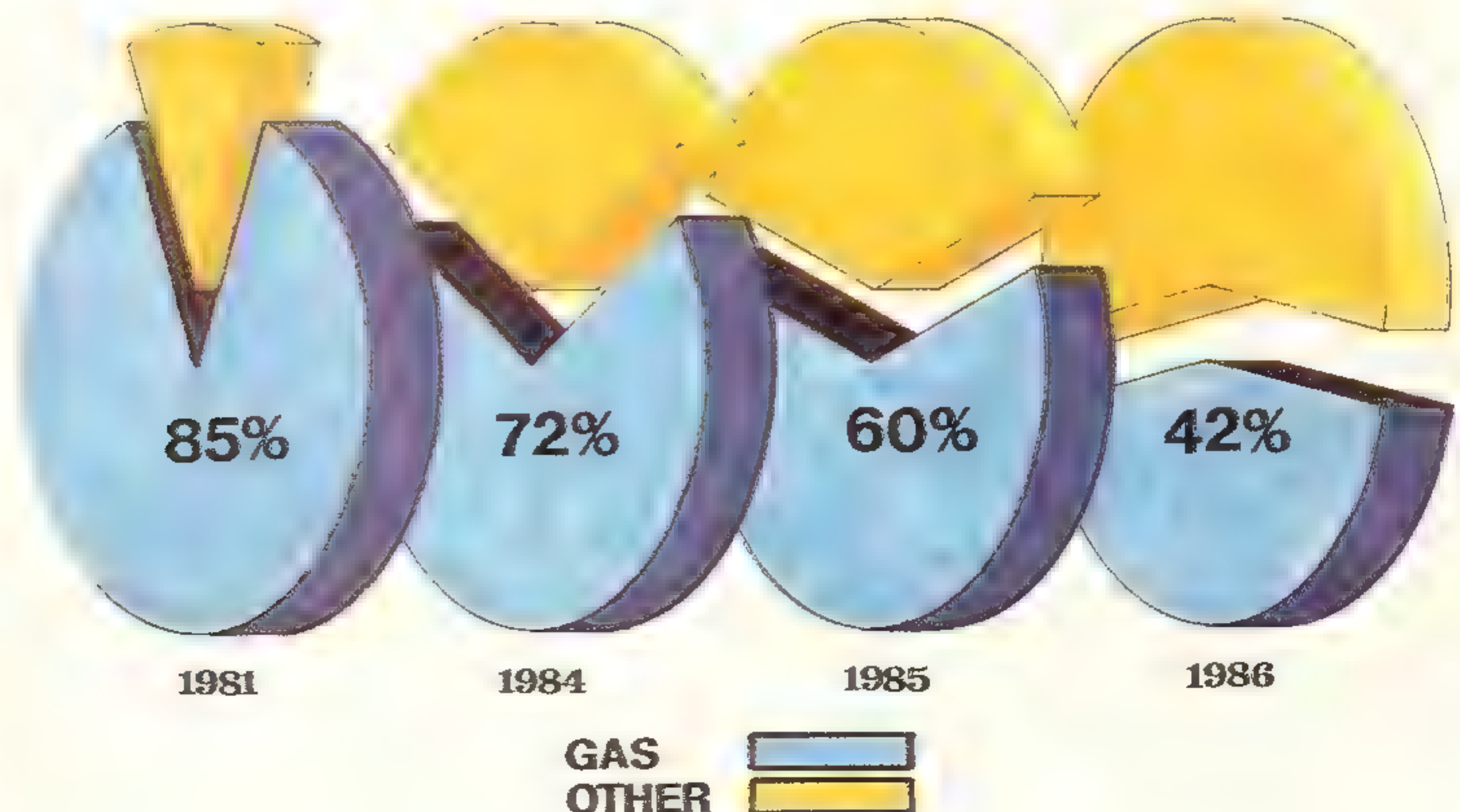
reminisces Bondurant, “and many experts predicted huge price increases that could boost residential bills by 50 percent.” Fortunately, those predictions were off the mark.

Faced with that possibility, however, the company decided to shift from expensive natural gas to cheaper fuels. In 1981, gas-fired generation supplied about 85 percent of GSU’s energy needs, but by 1984, that figure was down to 70 percent. “This year gas will be down to 55 percent, with coal and purchases making up the balance. Next year, gas will fall off to 42 per-

cent,” says Bondurant. The River Bend Nuclear Station will be an important factor in that reduction as it will make a significant contribution in diversifying our fuel mix away from gas.

Gulf States is relying also on new contracts and multiple pipelines from different systems to supply each power plant and hold the line on costs. Bondurant credits GSU’s wolf-tamers with accomplishing a major goal in a short period of time and saving the customers millions of dollars. “The wolf looks much more docile now,” he says with much satisfaction.

## GSU FUELS





# Electricity from coal

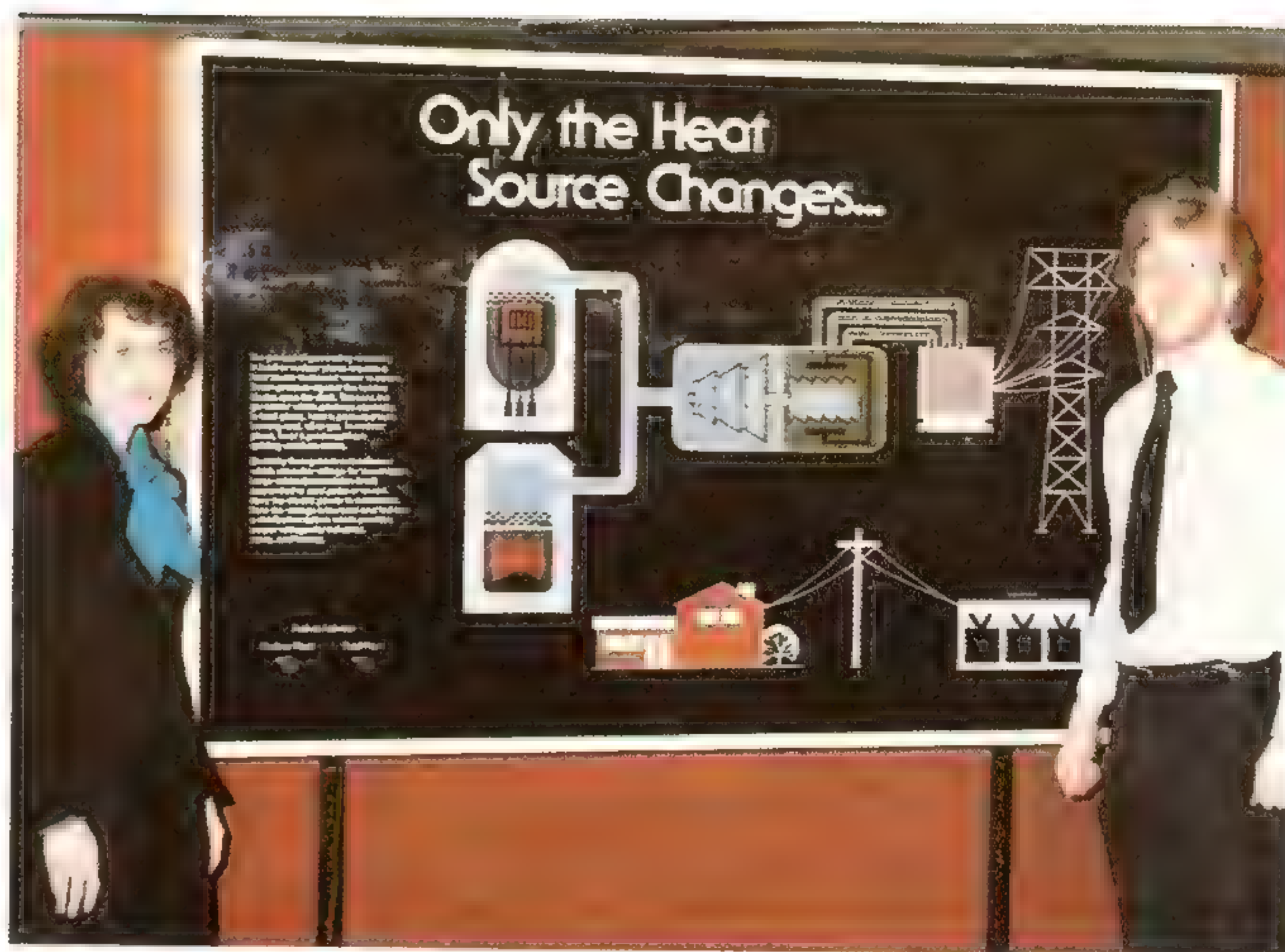
by Myra Castello

Nelson Coal Station is very important in GSU's efforts to diversify its fuel mix. So, when some Nelson Coal employees were invited to tell the public about generating electricity from coal, they jumped at the chance.

The McNeese Engineering Society in Lake Charles sponsored its annual engineering week exposition in February and once again asked area industries, including Gulf States, to take part. Engineering students and the general public were invited to learn more about the operations of participating companies.

Nelson employees Alan Dougherty, engineering assistant; Vivian O'Quinn, production engineer, and Elmer Hyde, results engineer; designed and staffed the GSU exhibit. It featured displays from Nelson Coal's visitor's center and a scale model pulverizer, a machine used to grind coal. "Not very many people understand power generation," explains Dougherty, "and since coal-fired boilers are new to GSU and this area, we wanted them to see what it is all about."

Ash Management Systems also participated in the exposition. Ash Management is located at Nelson Coal and handles the sales and disposal of the ash produced by the combustion of coal. AMS displayed samples of Nelson's fly ash and bottom ash — by-products put to use by other industries.



*Vivian O'Quinn and Alan Dougherty at the Gulf States exhibit.*



*O'Quinn stands next to a scale model of a pulverizer, a machine used to crush coal.*



**Anderson, David L.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Babin, Douglas C.**, Beaumont, to right-of-way agent, Engineering Services.

**Ballard, Curnnie L.**, River Bend Station, to projects supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Barber, Lloyd E.**, River Bend Station, to repairman-1st class-nuclear, Plant Production.

**Barron, Brian E.**, Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Department.

**Bennett, Kelly D.**, Baton Rouge, to energy auditor, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Benton, James Jr.**, Port Arthur, to helper, Electric T&D.

**Bergt, Charles A.**, Sabine Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Best, Royce A.**, Woodville, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Boyd, Earl R. Jr.**, Zachary, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

**Boynton, Charles L.**, Beaumont, to staff engineer, System Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Broussard, Brenda B.**, Sabine Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Broussard, Sedonia W.**, R.S. Nelson Station, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

**Brown, Daniel L.**, Gonzales, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Broyles, Gerard L.**, Lake Charles, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

**Bruner, Robert B.**, Vidor, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Burk, Randall E.**, Willow Glen Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Burnett, Thomas D.**, formerly of Willow Glen Station, to boiler maintenance

supervisor, Beaumont System Production.

**Cart, Donald J.**, Sabine Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Cascio, Joseph D.**, Baton Rouge, to meterman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Condon, Gerald R.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-office planning and garage, General Services.

**Cozad, Marsha B.**, Beaumont, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Driver, Darryl R.**, New Caney, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Dorman, Glenda B.**, Sabine Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Duhon, Jaliene L.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

**Duhon, Lizabeth A.**, Lafayette, to consumer information coordinator, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Duplechien, Dudley**, Lafayette, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

**Fancher, Michael L.**, Beaumont, to distribution planning engineer, Engineering Services.

**Fenner, Ervin L.**, Navasota, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Field, Molly H.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-employee benefits, Human Resources.

**Fontenot, James W.**, Willow Glen Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

**Fortenberry, Herbert B.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Fraye, Richard W.**, River Bend Station, to projects supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Frederick, David L.**, R.S. Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**George, Sherry L.**, The Woodlands, to district service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Goldman, Arthur E.**, River Bend Station, to projects supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Hackler, Bruce**, Beaumont, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Hamby, John J.**, Beaumont, to engineering systems analyst, Engineering Services.

**Hamilton, Esquardo H.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Hill, Darius W.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Holder, Jommy C.**, Beaumont, to coordinator-employee benefits, Human Resources.

**Hollier, Jean L.**, Lafayette, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Howard, Glynn M.**, River Bend Station, to helper-nuclear, Plant Production.

**James, Dane A.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Jarrells, Larry D.**, New Caney, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Johnson, Ralph**, Willow Glen Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Jones, Carliss M.**, secretary, formerly of Neches Station, transferred to Beaumont Materials Management.

**Justice, James G.**, Cleveland, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Kling, Eric P.**, Willow Glen Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Landry, Karen L.**, Lafayette, to marketing

agent, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Larriviere, Francis B.**, senior load management engineer, formerly of System Marketing and Consumer Services, transferred to Beaumont Rates and Regulatory Affairs.

**Lawrence, Donald A.**, Beaumont, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Building Services.

**Leavines, Joseph W.**, River Bend Station, to supervisor-ISEG, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Ledet, Nathaniel P.**, Lake Charles, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**LeGrange, Perry N.**, Willow Glen Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Mancil, Judith A.**, formerly of Beaumont River Bend Nuclear Group, to engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

**Marshall, Linda K.**, Beaumont, to general graphic technician, Office Services.

**Martin, Ronald E.**, Sabine Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Mayo, Robert D.**, Lake Charles, to marketing agent, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Mead, Joseph F.**, River Bend Station, to senior ISEG engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Mearidy, Robert III**, Baton Rouge, to pipeman-2nd class, Gas Department.

**Meza, Stella L.**, Beaumont, to staff auditor I, Internal Audits.

**Moore, Tommy L.**, Conroe, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

**Moreau, Ruth B.**, Lake Charles, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

**Mullen, Jack V.**, Baton Rouge, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Murdock, Jerry**, Beaumont, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.



**N**

**Newman, Joseph**, Nelson Coal Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Normand, Vance J.**, River Bend Station, to supervisor-contract personnel, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**O**

**Oden, James M.**, Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**P**

**Palmer, David P.**, Sabine Station, to test foreman, Plant Production.

**Parden, Nelwon W.**, River Bend Station, to building and grounds foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Paris, Curtis D.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Patin, Leonard J.**, Lafayette, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Paul, Robert M. Jr.**, Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Perkins, Jacque K.**, secretary, formerly of Beaumont Materials Management, transferred to River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

**Portier, Robert J.**, Loui-

siana Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

**Prince, Mark A.**, Sabine Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**R**

**Raleigh, James L.**, formerly of Beaumont System Operations, to supervisor-division engineering, Port Arthur T&D Engineering.

**Renfrow, Guy L.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Retherford, Edward J.**, formerly of Toledo Bend Station, to transportation supervisor, Beaumont T&D Garage.

**Richardson, Charles S.**, formerly of Jennings, to consumer affairs coordinator, Lake Charles Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Roberts, Craig L.**, Willow Glen Station, to test foreman, Plant Production.

**Rogers, Herman F.**, formerly of Beaumont Rates and Regulatory Affairs, to T&D engineer, Beaumont T&D Engineering.

**S**

**Sanford, Craig L.**, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Office Services.

**Smith, Robert E.**, Sabine

Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Speeg, Albert D.**, River Bend Station, to instrumentation and controls foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Spencer, James A.**, formerly of Beaumont Engineering Services, to staff engineer, Beaumont System Operations.

**T**

**Taylor, John E.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-load research, Rates and Regulatory Affairs.

**Terry, Eugene J.**, Jennings, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Thibodeaux, Daniel J.**, Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Thibodeaux, Raymond A.**, Willow Glen Station, to staff accountant I, Plant Production.

**Tholborn, Richard E.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Thomas, John H.**, Sabine Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Thomas, Joseph J.**, Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**V**

**Vantine, Julie P.**, River

Bend Station, to nuclear chemistry technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Vincent, Jeffrey M.**, Willow Glen Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**W**

**Walker, Elizabeth G.**, Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, System Production.

**Walker, Jason B.**, Sabine Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Walker, Jeffrey D.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Weeks, Thomas G.**, formerly of Crystal Beach, to utility foreman, Winnie T&D Line.

**Welch, Ronald C.**, River Bend Station, to building and grounds supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**White, Darrell W.**, R.S. Nelson Station, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

**White, Scott A.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Williamson, Timmy K.**, formerly of System Marketing and Consumer Services, to design engineer, Beaumont Engineering.

## Courtesy: a timeless virtue

Someone said that a wise person looks to the past and learns from it. The following article on service appeared in *Just Plain Talks*, this magazine's ancestor, in 1922, its first year of publication. The article is as pertinent today as it was to GSU's predecessor, Eastern Texas Electric Co., which printed the magazine before Gulf States was formed. It was furnished by Ward McCurtain:

“Have you time to say ‘Thank you?’”

Have you time to say ‘Please?’”

Have you time to say “I beg your pardon?”

If you haven't time to be courteous, please take time, because courtesy is the pleasant oil that lubricates the day's work. Courtesy makes all tasks pleasant ones.

The cash value of courtesy cannot be overestimated. A customer's attitude toward the company is usually determined from his first dealings with the company. The courteous and efficient manner by the employees in the office, by the servicemen who first visit the customer's home

and by the meter readers each month, will foster a personal interest of the customer in the company. These courtesies may appear small at the time, but in the final analysis they will determine the customer's opinion of the company.

This spirit of courtesy, kindness, thoughtfulness and cheerfulness will make every customer ... a friend of the company. Pleasant relations with every customer will go further in making friends with the public than all written matter the company might publish ...”





## Drivers welcome Sydney Michelle

Sydney Michelle Driver was born Feb. 10, 1985, to Darryl and Lisa Driver of Humble, Texas. The infant weighed 8 pounds and measured 20 inches. Her dad is a lineman-2nd class in New Caney.



Dianne Brandon

## Dianne Brandon accepts award

Dianne Brandon, consumer affairs coordinator in Baton Rouge, represented GSU at a banquet given by the East Baton Rouge Parish Division of Community Development. *Plain Talks* correspondent Debi Patin reports that Dianne is active in the workshops presented by the Citizens Advisory Council, and has provided them with current information on various Gulf States consumer programs.

Dianne was honored with a certificate of recognition for active and cooperative participation, along with appointment as an honorary mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge. She also accepted, on behalf of the company, a plaque recognizing GSU's contribution to the community services workshop program.

## Mayor names Westlake's finest

One Gulf States employee and the wife of another shared the honor of being named two of the finest citizens of Westlake, La. The mayor of Westlake honored Sheila Soileau, confidential records clerk at Nelson Generation, and Janelle Landers, wife of Bobby Landers, utility worker at Nelson Coal, by proclaiming Valentine's Day "Sweetheart Day" in their honor.



Sheila Soileau

Soileau represented the city of Lake Charles in the Mrs. Louisiana/America State Pageant last January in Lafayette and was named 2nd runner-up. Soileau competed in the evening gown, sportswear, swimsuit, talent, photogenic and personal interview categories and was awarded a large trophy and bouquet of flowers. In November 1984, Soileau was crowned Mrs. Lake Charles/America Queen. Landers represented the city of Westlake in the state pageant and was named 4th runner-up.

## Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustees during March 1985 covering employee deductions and company contributions through February 1985 included the purchase of 30,354 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$402,190.50. The average cost per share was \$13.20.

The trustee also deposited \$334,831.71 in savings with First City National Bank of

Beaumont and \$27,838.25 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.



Dan Fontenot of LSU Cooperative Extension Service congratulates young Brad Yates, who is shown with Karen Yates (2nd from right) and Julieanna Walker.

## Youth places in energy contest

Brad Yates, a 7th grader in Baton Rouge, won 3rd place for his entry on solar heating in the Louisiana Energy Education Day poster contest. Brad's entry won him a \$50 check. The theme for LEED in 1985 is Educating for America's Energy Future.

Brad is the son of Don and Karen Yates. Karen is a consumer information coordinator in Baton Rouge.



## Devalls add third child

Jared Wayne Devall is the newest addition to the Gregory Sr. and Stacey Devall family. He arrived Jan. 24, 1985, weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 21½ inches. Jared has one brother, 7-year-old Greg Jr., and a sister Amanda, who is 4.

Their father is a lineman-3rd class in Lake Charles.



Margaret Monk

## Monk makes GSU 'submarine'

Gulf States produces electricity, not nuclear submarines. Nonetheless, the GSU table decoration at the Greater Lake Charles Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet prominently featured a model of the submarine U.S.S. Nautilus and a containment dome representing the River Bend Nuclear station.

Margaret Monk, consumer service representative in Lake Charles Division made the decoration, designed to tie GSU with the banquet theme, 'Visions for the Future.' The decoration was entitled 'GSU and the Navy know nukes.'



Molly Field, Jommy Holder

## Party celebrates two promotions

Friends in the Human Resources Department, Edison Plaza, Beaumont, helped Molly Field and Jommy Holder celebrate their promotions by surprising them with a cake to mark the occasion. Field was named supervisor of employee benefits, while Holder was named coordinator of employee benefits. Their new positions became effective March 1.





*To Marilyn and Bill Reynolds  
With best wishes,*

*Ronald Reagan Nancy Reagan*

# Hello, Mr. President

by Mike Rodgers

"How do you do. It's nice to meet you." GSUsers Bill and Marilyn Reynolds have heard that greeting many times in their lives, but when the President of the United States says it to you, it's an unforgettable experience. Bill, supervisor of mail services in Edison Plaza, and Marilyn, plant secretary at Nelson Coal, met President and Mrs. Reagan last December at a White House Christmas party for Secret Service agents and their wives. "My brother is a Secret Service agent assigned to the Presidential Protective Division. When he invited us to the party, we couldn't resist," says Bill.

It was a day filled with memories for them. "We drove right up to the White House front gate and onto the grounds to park," recalls Marilyn. "I never thought it would be that easy. Of course,

it helps a great deal when your brother-in-law works in the White House," she adds. Both were impressed with the Christmas decorations placed throughout the executive mansion, calling them "magnificent."

Guests' pictures were taken with the Reagans in the Blue Room. Bill and Marilyn describe the first family as gracious and congenial. Looking back on their brief moment with the Reagans, Marilyn remembers, "I was sure I would be calm and at ease when we were introduced. Of course, I was awestruck and don't recall one word I said." Two photographers took the pictures in case one camera malfunctioned.

Party guests were permitted to walk through the Red, Blue, Green and East rooms at their leisure. "It's one thing to take a

regular tour and see a few rooms quickly," notes Bill with enthusiasm, "but to take your time enjoying the artifacts, historic paintings and the beauty of the decor was a real treat." They also were allowed to look inside the Oval Office. Bill has a souvenir snapshot of himself standing at the podium in the press room pretending, he grins, "to be making some earth-shaking announcement to eager reporters."

Two months afterward, their eagerly-awaited and personally-autographed picture arrived. How do they feel about the afternoon at the White House now? The couple uses words like "thrilled" and "excited." Marilyn says, "It's nice to walk up and shake hands with the President."



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